

adverbs should be employed. Charcot's word is *exactement*, but Dr. Comegys, instead of translating it by "exactly," makes an adjective out of it and spoils his sentence.

"I perceive that I shall be obliged to refer to an epoch *where* I shall treat," etc. (p. 10).

Let us gently remind Dr. Comegys that an epoch is not a place, as he apparently thinks it is, by referring to it by the adverb "where," but a period of time which requires the adverb "when" to designate it. Charcot's word is *ou*, which, as our readers know, is translated by "when," if the sense requires it.

But this must suffice. Dr. Comegys has one great fault as a translator, in addition to those we have already specified. He seems to think that every French word must be translated into English. As a consequence he is almost always obscure and ungrammatical. The book is well printed on good paper. The wood-cuts are execrable, but so they are in the original.

Untersuchungen über Verbrecher-Gehirne. Anatomische und Anthropologische Studien von Dr. MAX FLESCHE. 1 Theil, Würzburg, 1882.

Researches relative to the Brains of Criminals. By Dr. Max Flesch.

Dr. Flesch's investigations are based upon fifty-four *post-mortem* examinations made at the Anatomical Institute at Würzburg on the bodies of criminals, with special reference to the shape, size, and other characteristics of the skull, and the condition of the brain and its membranes.

The monograph is open to the objection that the crimes of which the subjects were guilty are not stated, so that we are deprived of the opportunity of ascertaining how far great or slight irregularities of the organs mentioned were related to great or slight crimes, and *vice versa*. Thus, for instance, we are informed in regard to Case 4 that the skull was "slightly unsymmetrical," and that the convolutions were "irregular," but we have no data as to the depth of criminality into which the subject was plunged. And again, of Case 22 it is stated that the skull was "unsymmetrical, slight flattening of the right frontal and vertical region," and that there was "division of the second frontal convolution on both sides," but for all we know the subject may have been guilty of the great crime of murdering his mother, or of the very trivial offence of pulling the burgomaster's nose.

Still we do get some valuable information from Dr. Flesch's

monograph. We find, for instance, that of the fifty-four bodies examined there were anomalies of the skull in twenty-eight, consisting of asymmetries hyperostoses, osteophytes, etc.

Again, in thirty-six there were diseases of the brain and its annexæ, such as hyperæmia of the dura mater, pachymeningitis, cerebral hemorrhage, adhesion of the membranes to each other and to the skull, extensive pigmentation of the gray substance, etc., etc.

We do not know that any other observer has noticed such a large proportion of cranial irregularities and intra-cranial diseases in criminals, as compared with moral and law-abiding citizens. We shall look with interest for the continuation of Dr. Flesch's researches.

Ueber die Erfolge der Nervendehnung, von Dr. BERNHARD NOCHT.

Under this title Dr. Nocht has presented the report of 150 cases in which nerve-stretching was performed as a means of alleviation or cure in neuralgia, facial spasm, torticollis, muscular contraction of the extremities, tetanus, epilepsy, locomotor ataxia, and other lesions of the spinal cord. Dr. Nocht's article is very interesting, as it presents a large number of cases, collected not only from the records of continental surgery, but also from those of England and America.

By far the greater number of these cases are of neuralgic origin, in which the beneficial result of nerve-stretching is so well established as to call for but little or no comment. The monograph would be of more practical value if its pages were less devoted to the enumeration of cases of this character, and had embraced to a greater extent those affections for which nerve-stretching is performed, and of which the statistics are, as yet, very incomplete. As it is, the number of cases cited under each classification, with the exception, perhaps, of those performed for tetanus, are not sufficiently numerous to warrant the conclusion whether an operation would be advisable or not. Although many of the recent operations of nerve-stretching performed in this country have not been embraced in Dr. Nocht's collection, yet the conciseness of the classification and the clear and simple manner in which the results are stated, render the contribution valuable and meritorious.